

**SCOTTISH
NATURAL
HERITAGE**



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Our Ref: PF 266/07-08

Mrs Pam Whittle
Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland
Scottish Government
Area 2-F(S)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Glasgow2014legacy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

6th May 2008

Dear Mrs Whittle,

Re: Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland

SNH is the statutory agency responsible for protecting and enhancing the natural heritage, and for promoting enjoyment and understanding of it. We have been an active member of the Games Bid Environment Forum and the All Scotland group in during the bid process, and welcome the opportunity to comment on this document and commends its production. We believe that the 2014 Commonwealth Games provide the opportunity for a vast range of benefits, many of which relate directly to SNH's remit and current operations, to leave a lasting legacy across Scotland.

The specific relevant Outcomes SNH is currently seeking to deliver are:

- Greater and wider participation in enjoying the outdoors
- Adequate good quality greenspace in towns
- Improved health and well-being
- More sustainable patterns of travel close to where people live
- Greater involvement by communities in managing their local environment including the landscape around them

SNH's vision is for the Games to inspire and encourage the people of Scotland to be more active outdoors and in so doing, to reap personal health and well-being benefits, and to contribute to sustainable regeneration of Glasgow. A significant part of SNH's current programme relates to creating attractive places for people to live or visit,

providing opportunities for healthier and greener lifestyles, and enabling people to enjoy the natural heritage, the delivery of which marries well with the social, economic and environmental aspirations of the Games legacy plan.

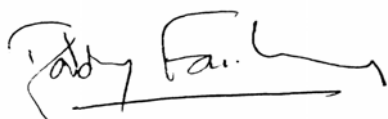
The 2014 Games provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the people of Scotland the importance of getting the environment right for the people who live, visit, work and study in communities. We should use the Games to demonstrate that integrated approaches to the planning and delivery of buildings, public open space, greenspace and path networks can create attractive and sustainable places, which will encourage physical activity and active travel - benefitting physical health and mental well-being, biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions. These facilities should reflect people's needs, be well managed and promoted, and be supported by effective public transport. Developments for the Games and its legacy should take account of opportunities presented by other initiatives such as:

- local authority outdoor access, greenspace / open space and transport strategies
- the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland
- the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places initiative
- the Central Scotland Green Network
- Healthy walking initiatives and the Green Exercise Partnership

Combined with encouragement and leadership to increase the use of the outdoors, healthy levels of physical activity could become the norm for much of the population, thus creating a strong foundation to boost sporting excellence. Volunteers could also play an important role in enhancing the environment, for example through orchard regeneration and other practical nature conservation and outdoor access work, while benefitting through healthy exercise. Overall, communities have perhaps most to gain through developing pride and ownership in living in attractive environments which provide for sustainable, enjoyable and rewarding lifestyles.

SNH wishes to play an active part in advising on, and contributing to, the implementation of the Games Benefits & Legacy Plan. Please contact Arthur Keller at the above address (email arthur.keller@snh.gov.uk; tel: 0141 951 0853) if you wish to discuss the contents of the response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roddy Fairley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Roddy Fairley
Director of South Operations

Annexe - Specific comments

Wealthier & Fairer

'Improve Scotland and Scottish businesses' ability to compete in the global major events market'

Apart from the shooting events that will take place at Barry Buddon in Angus, all Games venues are in the Glasgow area. Economic gain will come to the specific Games locations, but pre-Games training has the potential to create a wider legacy and assistance should be directed to other sites, including those in rural areas which provide appropriate opportunities, to enable improvement / expansion of facilities. All such sites / facilities should practice high standards in environmental sustainability.

'Position Scotland as an attractive place to visit'

In using the Games to promote Scotland for international tourism and stimulate increased capacity, the opportunity should be taken to highlight Scotland's world-class landscapes as the setting for a vast range of sports and outdoor recreation.

In a similar vein, in planning the Games' cultural programme, there is an opportunity to expand this to showcase Scotland's natural heritage, its landscapes, wildlife and urban greenspace, which, alongside the arts and creative industries, contribute hugely to our quality of life, attractiveness to visitors and inward investment, and the strength of Scotland's economy.

Smarter

'Recognise skills learned through acting as a volunteer at the Glasgow 2014 Games'

The personal and social benefits of volunteering can be profound. The Games provide many exciting opportunities to engage people in volunteering, but the draft plan does not provide sufficient surety that there will be a long term legacy. In developing the detailed action plan, SNH recommends that a broader range of organisations which operate volunteering programmes (including within the environmental sector eg BTCV, National Trust for Scotland) are identified, and that means are explored by which to secure opportunities and onward commitment beyond the Games.

'Capture the enthusiasm of children and young people for the Games, adding to the pride they already have in Scotland, its place in the world and its inclusive approach to people from other nations'.

In terms of what could result from these actions, the current draft plan could be more ambitious. In using the Games as a focus for international education, it is hoped that a greater sense of place and community will be instilled in our children and young people, along with increased pride in being responsible citizens generated by representing their country either just as a supporter, or as someone more directly engaged in the planning or delivery of the Games or associated programmes. Again, in planning a strong focus on teaching young people about aspects of health and well-being and physical activity, more should be made of the hope that such learning could bring about deeper understanding of the benefits of healthy exercise, and increased

active participation – see below under Healthier. In increasing young people's knowledge about healthy exercise, the importance of ensuring coverage of the breadth of physical activity including informal sport and recreation, and the opportunities to integrate exercise into daily life eg walking or cycling to school, should be stressed. There is a danger that, if the focus is only on formal / high performance sport, that many children might be intimidated rather than inspired to be more active. Participation in non-team sports such as mountain biking, rock climbing, canoeing etc can be a very positive route to a healthier lifestyle.

Healthier

Here SNH will focus on the importance of the inter-relationships between – education & community learning (see Smarter); pathways to health; and sustainable travel (see Greener). In terms of the draft plan's envisaged results, as well as contributing to national targets that are specific to health, sport and physical activity, we would suggest that the Games could be used to add impetus to an additional Government target: 'to increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week', which itself will contribute to a healthier population. Scotland's outdoors, especially close to where people live, provides a vast resource to enable healthy exercise. Walking is the easiest and most socially inclusive form of physical activity, and ensuring that all communities are provided with a good paths network, and are encouraged to use it, has the potential to make a significant contribution to public health and well-being.

Local authorities are developing Core Paths networks, which will provide a framework of routes for recreational and functional use by walkers and cyclists, and Glasgow itself has issued its consultative draft Core Path Plan. Co-ordination between these processes will help to ensure that the physical developments associated with the Games will link to and support the path network that the city is developing.

The Green Exercise Partnership¹ is planning a range of relevant work and will co-ordinate effort: national set of key messages about green exercise; national information database of outdoor access infrastructure; targeting effort to schools, communities and workplace.

'Make Scotland a healthier place to live'

The co-ordination of social marketing campaigns, and the use of role models, to deliver a consistent message about physical activity will be key. As indicated above, SNH believes the use of local paths and greenspace, the physical and mental benefits to be gained, the potential to incorporate healthy exercise into daily life, and making sure that the use of sporting role models does not intimidate the average citizen, should be key elements of promotion campaigns.

The draft plan includes proposed actions to contribute to the delivery of the national sports strategy 'Reaching Higher'. As well as this focus on participation in sports, we believe, as indicated above, that the Games offer an opportunity to inspire an increase in participation in a broader range of activity. Scotland has a vast outdoor access resource, from the mountains and coastlines, to Country Parks, the countryside around

¹ The Green Exercise Partnership involves: Scottish Government Health, NHS Health Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland.

settlements and urban greenspace. The outdoors resource can be used for recreational activities such as hill walking, running, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding, canoeing, rock climbing etc. SNH is actively engaged in encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors in the full extent of active and passive pursuits. For many people who do not currently participate, walking close to where they live is the easiest way to start being more active, and the Games could be used to trigger action. Path networks provide free and easy access to the outdoors, offering opportunities for recreation, and traffic-free routes for active travel - for example to work, school, local shops, visiting friends - all of which will bring about physical and mental health benefits.

The current work to develop a Central Scotland Green Network is an example of how action can be co-ordinated with the aim of improving local landscape, facilitating access and encouraging healthier lifestyles. Other wider initiatives include: Sustainable Demonstration Towns; the National Cycle Network; development of a Cycling Action Plan for Scotland; development of a Scottish Walking Strategy.

Safer & Stronger

‘Physical, economic, social and environmental regeneration of deprived parts of Glasgow’

SNH welcomes recognition of the potential for the Games to contribute to regenerating some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland. The environmental elements of this regeneration are an essential part of its success. In particular, there are opportunities at the waterfront within the Athlete’s village area to allow the natural riparian habitat to recover, and to facilitate public access to it, so as to reconnect this part of the city with the river. Beyond the Athlete’s Village, SNH would encourage recognition of the contribution made by environmental quality to economic regeneration, and of the potential of the Games to showcase Scotland’s commitment to the highest environmental quality in urban design. This could be taken forward through incorporating into regeneration programmes the highest environmental standards, community participation, building performance and construction, integration of greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable transport links.

Greener

‘Use the Games as an Environmental Exemplar’

SNH supports the proposed approach to carbon off-setting of targeting climate change adaption and mitigation in developing countries. Previous attempts around the world at carbon-offsetting by large scale afforestation have been largely discredited, and it is therefore preferable to address the longer term issues. Whilst the Games provide an opportunity to develop links with Commonwealth countries, they can provide an environmental exemplar if they are linked to such projects within Scotland. Therefore, we feel that there are opportunities to investigate the development of a programme around Scotland linked to this objective. This might include a natural heritage element, perhaps including natural regeneration of native woodland and the conservation of carbon sinks, such as peat bogs.

‘Use the Games as an exemplar of sustainable transport’

SNH welcomes the focus on providing opportunities for excluded communities through improved transport links including through the Games Transport Plan, and for showcasing the National Cycle Network. SNH would welcome recognition of the importance of community participation in the transport elements of regeneration initiatives, and of the opportunities provide by the Games to put in place healthy, high quality, long-term sustainable transport options including paths, cycleways and green networks that contribute to sustainable places, sustainable transport, regeneration and access to the Games. The Games Transport Plan should ensure that spectators can travel to venues by active travel modes such as walking and cycling, as well as by public transport.

To maximise the long term legacy of the Games, it should be recognised that the National Cycle Network, and the ability to make multi-modal journeys by putting bikes on buses, trains and subways, have the potential to benefit local communities, as well as tourist visitors, adding to people's options for recreational and active travel journeys.